



Speech by

Hon. J. ELDER

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard 18 August 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Business Cadetship Scheme

Hon. J. P. ELDER (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: Last year the Beattie Government instigated a Business Cadetship Scheme to allow young Queensland businesspeople to spend time in foreign countries. The scheme, for which this Government has set aside \$1.7m over four years, was introduced not only to further the skills of these people but to imbue an export culture among the coming generation in the Queensland business community.

I am happy to report that the four 1998-99 cadets have returned home after spending five months working in the Queensland trade and investment offices in Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Shanghai and Tokyo. The four cadets are Angela O'Dea, David Bridge, Belinda Finch and Jack Josephson and they respectively stayed in Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. They worked on projects such as the Chinese domestic water supply market and opportunities for Queensland cast iron water pumps, exporting health care, identifying meat opportunities in Hong Kong and rubber recycling procedures in the US.

Each found the experience of working overseas rewarding. In fact, Belinda Finch told the Department of State Development, and I quote—

"What have I gained? ... Self confidence, business skills, cultural skills, research skills, valuable contacts and an in-depth understanding of Hong Kong industries."

While Los Angeles-based cadet, Jack Josephson, told the department—

"I have really enjoyed being able to work in an overseas office. It has opened my eyes to see opportunities that I would not have otherwise seen. The cadetship has given me confidence in new areas that I have previously not considered."

This year there will be six cadetships offered for a period of six and a half months starting in January 2000. These cadetships will include a period of employment of about five months in one of the Queensland trade offices. Applications for the next series of cadetships close later this month and successful applicants are expected to be notified mid next month. As part of the scheme, cadets will be required to complete a project aimed at increasing trade and investment outcomes for a Queensland industry. The project will be based on a proposal submitted by the applicant and must relate to the nominated specific industry sector. The project will need to be developed in conjunction with a Queensland industry organisation or at least two small to medium sized enterprises in Queensland.

Industry sectors targeted by the Government are telecommunications, information technology, organic food industry, biotechnology, and health care services. The whole purpose of this scheme is to give young Queensland businesspeople the business contacts in other countries that they will then be able to use in their own business careers. While the cadets will have specific tasks with the trade and investment offices, they will also be expected to get out and about in the business communities of their host countries. This Government is committed to the State and building its future and this scheme is another example of that commitment.